## Amendments to the Claims:

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The process of claim 11~~ A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxysilane functionalities of the formula (6).

$$-X-CH_2-Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \qquad (6)$$

in which

R each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R' each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

X is oxygen or a group of the formula (20)

$$-O-CO-NR''- \qquad (20)$$

wherein

R'' each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1,

wherein said prepolymers (A) are prepared by reaction of a silane selected from the group consisting of

$$CH_2=CW\text{-}CO\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x,$$

polyoxypropylene $-O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$, and

$$OCN\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$$ with a

prepolymer precursor reactive therewith, and wherein the coating composition prepolymer (A) is neat or dissolved in solvent, and wherein W is H or $CH_3$.

wherein the silane-functional prepolymers (A) are prepared using silanes (A1) of the general formula (9)

$$OCN\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \qquad (9).$$

16. (Currently Amended) The process of claim [[12]] 15, wherein the group R is a methyl or ethyl radical. ~~wherein the silane-functional prepolymers (A) are prepared using silanes (A1) of the general formula (9)~~

~~$OCN\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$ (9).~~

17. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~ coating of claim [[11]] 30, wherein the coating formulation (B) further comprises at least one reactive diluent which is a low molecular weight compound having a molecular weight such that the viscosity is not more than 5 Pas at 20°C and which possesses reactive alkoxysilyl groups which are incorporated into a three-dimensional network as the coating cures.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~ coating of claim 20, wherein at least one reactive diluent is selected from the group consisting of alkyltrimethoxysilanes, alkyltriethoxysilanes, vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane, tetraethoxysilane, partial hydrolysates of these compounds, and compounds of the formulae (10) and (11)

$$R''\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \quad (10),$$

$$R''\text{-}O\text{-}CO\text{-}NH\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \quad (11).$$

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The process of claim 11~~ A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxysilane functionalities of the formula (6)

$$\text{-}X\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \quad (6)$$

in which

R each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R' each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

X is oxygen or a group of the formula (20)

$$\text{-}O\text{-}CO\text{-}NR''\text{-} \quad (20)$$

wherein

R'' each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1,

wherein said prepolymers (A) are prepared by reaction of a silane selected from the group consisting of

$CH_2=CW\text{-}CO\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$,

polyoxypropylene $\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$, and

$OCN\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$, with a

prepolymer precursor reactive therewith, and wherein the coating composition prepolymer (A) is neat or dissolved in solvent, and wherein W is H or $CH_3$,

wherein the coating formulations (B) further comprise at least one binder (D) bearing no alkoxysilane functionalities of the general formula (6).

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The process of claim 11~~ A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxysilane functionalities of the formula (6).

$$\text{-}X\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \qquad (6)$$

in which

R each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R′ each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR′′ groups,

X is oxygen or a group of the formula (20)

$$\text{-O-CO-NR''-} \qquad (20)$$

wherein

R′′ each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1,

wherein said prepolymers (A) are prepared by reaction of a silane selected from the group consisting of

$$CH_2=CW\text{-}CO\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x,$$

polyoxypropylene $\text{-O-CH}_2\text{-Si(OR)}_{3-x}\text{R}'_x$, and

$$OCN\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x,$$ with a

prepolymer precursor reactive therewith, and wherein the coating composition prepolymer (A) is neat or dissolved in solvent, and wherein W is H or $CH_3$,

wherein the coating formulation (B) is solvent-free.

24. - 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxysilane functionalities of the formula (6)

$$-X\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \qquad (6)$$

in which

R each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R' each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

X is oxygen or a group of the formula (20)

$$-O\text{-}CO\text{-}NR''\text{-} \qquad (20)$$

wherein

R'' each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1,

wherein said prepolymers (A) are prepared by reaction of a silane selected from the group consisting of

polyoxypropylene $-O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$, and

$OCN\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$,

with a prepolymer precursor reactive therewith, and wherein the coating composition prepolymer (A) is neat or dissolved in solvent.

27. (Previously Presented) The coating of claim 26, wherein at least one prepolymer precursor is selected from the group consisting of polyethers, polyesters, polyurethanes, polyureas, poly(meth)acrylates, polycarbonates, polystrenes, polysiloxane-

urea/urethane copolymers, polyamides, polyvinyl esters, polyvinyl hydroxides, and polyolefins.

28. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one polyurethane prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxysilane functionalities of the formula (6)

$$-X-CH_2-Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \qquad (6)$$

in which

R each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R' each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

X is oxygen or a group of the formula (20)

$$-O-CO-NR''- \qquad (20)$$

wherein

R'' each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1.

29. (Previously Presented) The coating of claim 28, prepared by reacting a hydroxyl-terminal polyurethane prepolymer with a silane of the formula

$$OCN-CH_2-Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x.$$

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The coating of claim 1 which~~ A process for preparing a coating on a substrate, comprising applying a coating formulation (B) which is curable to a coating having a pencil hardness according to ISO 15184 of at least HB, the coating formulation comprising at least one prepolymer (A) which bears alkoxysilane functionalities of the formula (6).

$$-X-CH_2-Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x \qquad (6)$$

in which

R each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by non-adjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

R' each, independently, is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, the carbon chain being uninterrupted or interrupted by nonadjacent oxygen, sulfur or NR'' groups,

X is oxygen or a group of the formula (20)

$$-O-CO-NR''- \qquad (20)$$

wherein

R'' each, independently, is hydrogen, an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl or aspartate ester radical, and

x is 0 or 1,

wherein said prepolymers (A) are prepared by reaction of a silane selected from the group consisting of

$CH_2=CW-CO-O-CH_2Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$,

polyoxypropylene $-O-CH_2-Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$, and

$OCN-CH_2-Si(OR)_{3-x}R'_x$, with a

prepolymer precursor reactive therewith, and wherein the coating composition prepolymer (A) is neat or dissolved in solvent, and wherein W is H or $CH_3$, wherein the coating formulation is free of heavy metal catalysts.